

West Lafayette Go Greener Commission Meeting

Minutes of Regularly Scheduled Commission Meeting

Tuesday, August 14, 2012, 7:15 PM

Council Chambers, West Lafayette City Hall

Attending: Denise Blank; Heather Gall; Lindsey Payne; Peter Bunder; Parr Durr; Aparna Puri; Allen Jacobsen

Others: Rick Parsons (TDSWD); Jan Meyers

Absentees: Diane Damico; Dave Henderson; Kristin Flannelly; Gene Hanus; Thom Davis; Tom Voight

- I. Allen: Call to order
- II. Approve July 10th minutes, Peter moves, Parr seconds
- III. Riverfest Recap
 - a. Heather – GG won the canoe race, phosphorous free fertilizer handouts, grease jugs were all gone, origami with kids
 - b. Parr – Riverfest last too long, by afternoon hot and humid, people we are reaching are our “choir,” we need to up our messages at these events in this case or participate in events where folks don’t actual know what P-free fertilizer
 - c. Heather – it’s busy in the morning, kids leave in afternoon
 - d. Lindsey – 5K had very high attendance, probably the audience we are wanting to reach, so maybe we need to target them through goodie bags, message along the race route, and/or targets kids and parents for kid 1K
 - e. Rick – had recycling/solid waste flyers, gave a lot of them away, big crowd in the morning
 - f. Heather – did we give away soil test kits?
 - g. Group suggestion – GG recommends shorter time period, more events but we think some were canceled
- IV. Sustainability Report (Current Data and Assignments as Appendix A)
 - a. Allen - has feelers out for information, still waiting, overall idea is that we want to put a summary report together for the city/council, serves as guide post to measure future successes, need to get it pulled together soon, no real deadline
 - b. Heather – hard to find data at city-level
 - c. Lindsey – recommends Michael Susong instead of Dave Buck, information under water and river quality (Appendix A)
- V. GG Facebook page
 - a. Parr – will take it over temporarily, work with Linda Anderson,
 - b. Lindsey – ask Sara how WREC handles Facebook page
- VI. West Lafayette Park Department Initiatives
 - a. Fitness Trail
 - Allen – can we provide some ideas and examples, current trail shows a fitness loop but no stations
 - Aparna – Happy Hollow doesn’t have a fitness trail, Aparna will go to parks department meetings, do exist in US, so will look into 8-10 stations

- Denise – had concerns over litigation

b. Natural Plantings in Happy Hollow

- Allen – have on-going erosion problems in park, one old plan was to have plantings, what kind of planting are we
- Parr – benefits to native plantings—infiltration from rain events, lessen erosion, habitat increase, increase biodiversity, educational opportunities; all of this in the conceptual phase; so overall theme is how do we increase communication with the city to prevent this type of construction from happening in the first place
- Lindsey – this falls under WREC’s watershed management plan, should talk to Sara about potential sites for plantings; should also talk to Michael Susong/Bev Shaw about moving forward with policies on such new construction sites
- Allen – two problems 1) addressing current problem and 2) future new construction site policies
- Peter – you will have an ear, but you are dealing with small level bureaucracy
- Allen – other cities, i.e., Indianapolis, have amended stormwater regulations to include some of these elements; WL has been in the process of evaluating stormwater b/c they need a new stormwater facility
- Peter – that would be the time to start this conversation
- Parr – talked about putting GG in a more public spotlight and had areas of Happy Hollow with signage
- Rick – look at WREC urban cost-share projects and signage that will be installing
- Lindsey – WREC cost-share program used to install agricultural and urban water improvement projects. \$14.3 million in need has been identified and to date, \$606,000 has been spent locally to install such projects. An additional \$315,000 in requests for urban-based improvement projects are in the queue for funding, will invite Sara to next GG meeting
- Parr – flags that say, “keep-off, chemical treatment”, so what if we have signs that say, “poison-free, kids can play here, etc.”
- Jan Meyers - ADA regulations require plantings to line trail that can help with sight, can include native plantings to adhere policies
- Peter – say how do you get to the one that is “signing” the paper, Dave Buck
- Parr – we need to figure out a way to influence the decision makers to make those right decisions
- Allen – what about the city’s new fire station, it would be interesting to a commissioner involved in the planning to talk about green roofs, rain gardens, etc., would be good to have a representative at these planning meetings, we are there to ask the right questions

- Jan – why can't the GG commission report at council meetings?
 - Peter – need to make this your hobby b/c you will get noticed if you keep doing it; Henderson is most forth-coming about his environmental interests and how it can happen
 - Allen – will invite Dale Snipes, Stormwater Coordinator/MS4 Stormwater County
 - Lindsey – will invite Angie Andrews & Sara Peel (ask Sara if she is the right one)
 1. Inform commission on what they have done and how we can use this in WL, 10 minute overview, successes/failures, what can we learn
- VII. Green Tour
- a. Lindsey - need a GG committee member
 - b. Aparna, Heather volunteers! Yay!
 - c. Next meeting, September 5, Depot, 4:30PM
- VIII. Trash
- a. Peter will let us know if we start talking trash again, can't use wastewater fund anymore
- IX. Allen motions to adjourn, Parr seconds, adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 8:35PM
- X. Next meeting September 11, 2012

Recorded by Lindsey Payne and submitted to Diane Damico on August 14, 2012

Appendix A

Wildlife / Vegetation (Parr)

1. # of bird species, bird count (Barney Dunning, Purdue?)
2. Toxic Pesticides, chemical use of city departments (ind dept)
3. Wet land, prairie restoration (Dave Buck)
4. # of city trees (Bev Shaw and Parks dept City)
 - 6100 city trees in West Lafayette.

Water and River Quality (Lindsey)

1. # of CSOs (WREC)
 - 3 outfalls, map attached
2. Unwanted medicine drop offs in pounds (Janet Shepherd)
 - 2010 @600 lbs @290 people
 - 2011 @1631 lbs @955 people
 - 2012 @2485 lbs @ 875 people

As you can see 2012 is way over pounds of 2011 and it is only July!

3. Water consumption per household

4. Green Practices (WREC)

Attached: map showing practices installed in West Lafayette based on what we know from voluntary uploads to TippEcoNow, rain barrel sale lists, 319 funded projects and Purdue's stormwater list. Include source of info as www.TippEcoNow.com and/or WREC.

In total, green practices in West Lafayette are as follows:

- 20 rain gardens or bioswales (Bioswales are on PU campus; RG are private except for Lilly Nature Center)
- 14 pervious paver locations (does not include two new projects that are 319 funded on Chauncey)
- 35 rain barrel locations (total number = 54)
- 1 green roof
- 13 native plantings (likely well short of the actual total)

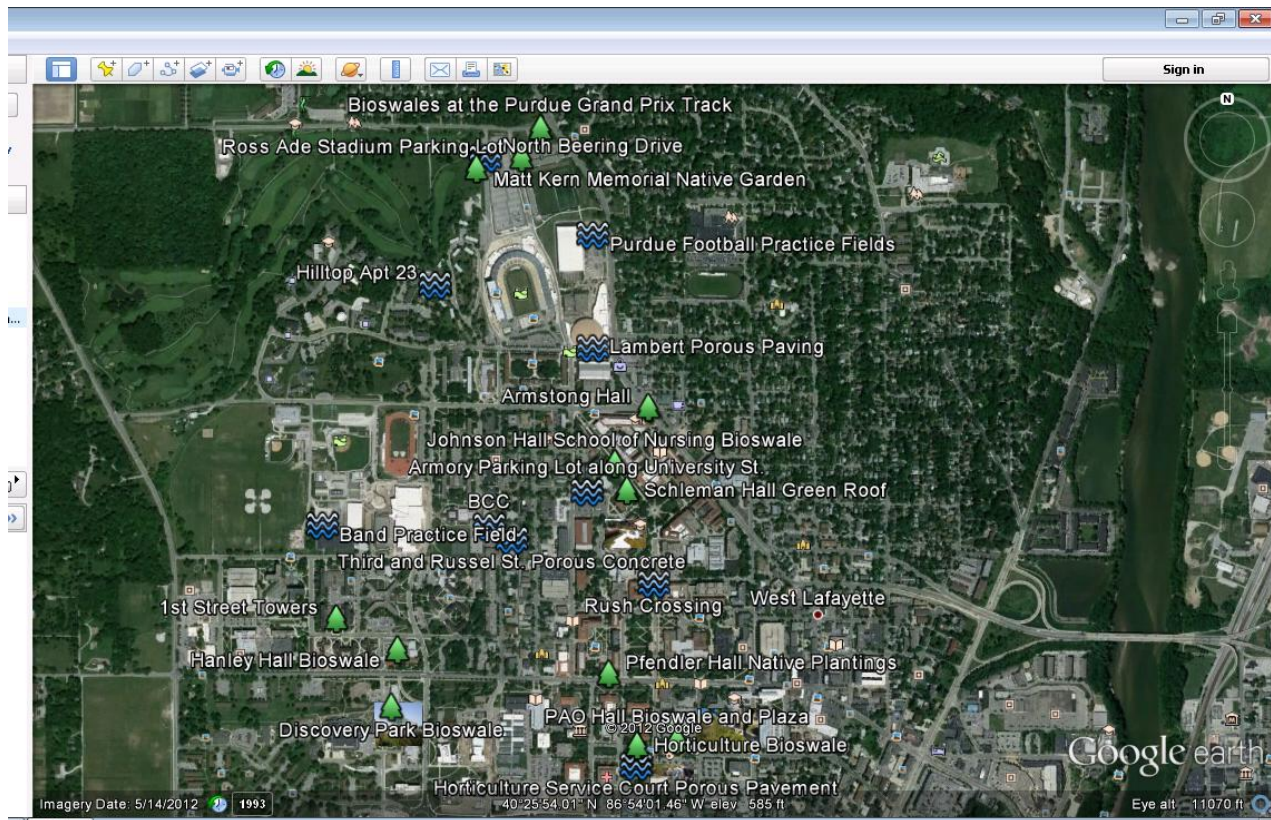
5. Other statistics re health of the river (WREC)

- <http://www.wabashriver.net/wabash-river-survey/>

6. Nontraditional water retention planning (765-775-5130, Michael Susong)

(BMPs that reduce runoff like infiltration ponds, pervious pavement, wetlands, bioswales, etc.)

- Waste water treatment plant – small planting, more residential rain garden-scale
- Lilly Nature Center – rain garden, pervious pavement
- Three ponds at intersection of NW and Lindberg – plantings around perimeters are water plants, submersible, 2 wet and 1 dry, plants can handle both conditions
- Cumberland Avenue between Yeager and US 52 – plantings, curb turn-outs
- Purdue Campus/Tippecanoe Partnership Group, WL, Laf, Battleground, Dayton, Purdue, Tippecanoe County, Ivy Tech, tippecanoesw.org



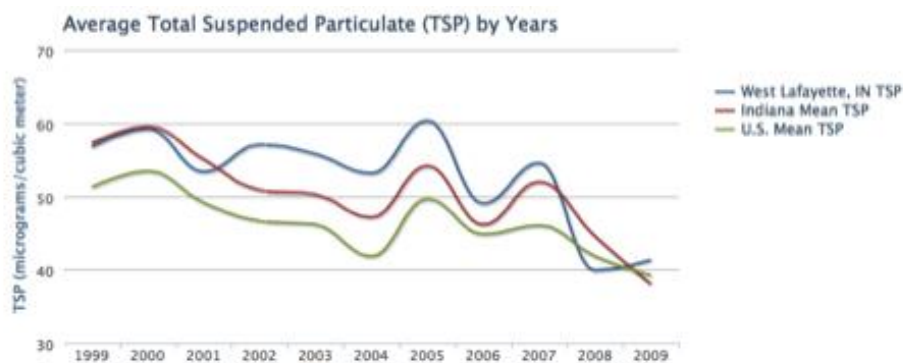
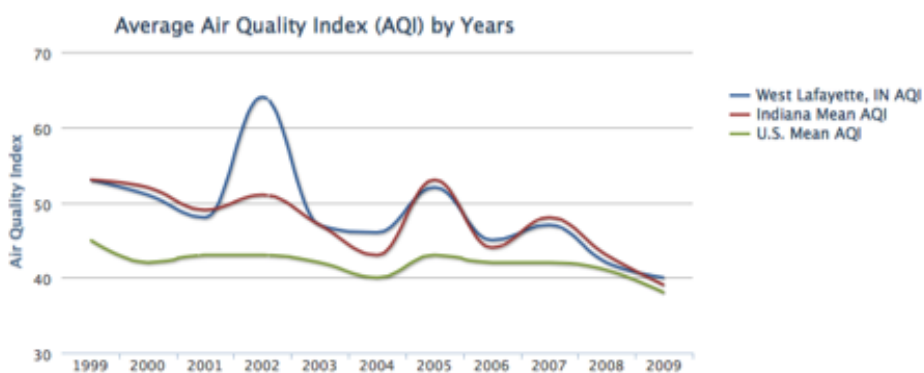
- Low-Impact Design – green practices, 200 pages of specifications of alternatives developers can use, ordinance allows this design to be used, but not required

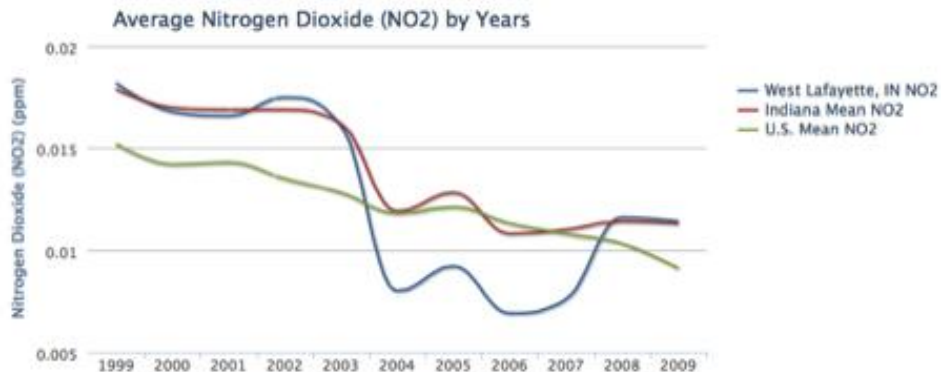
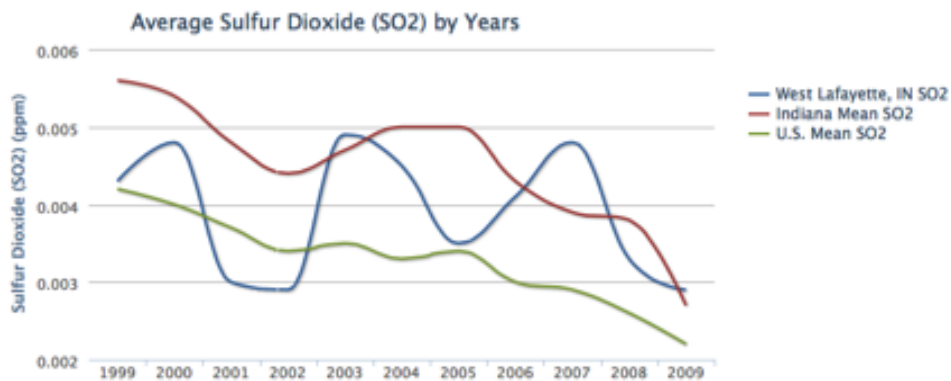
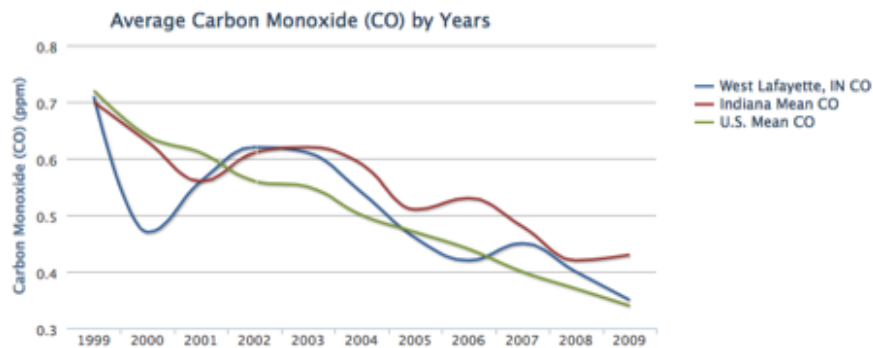
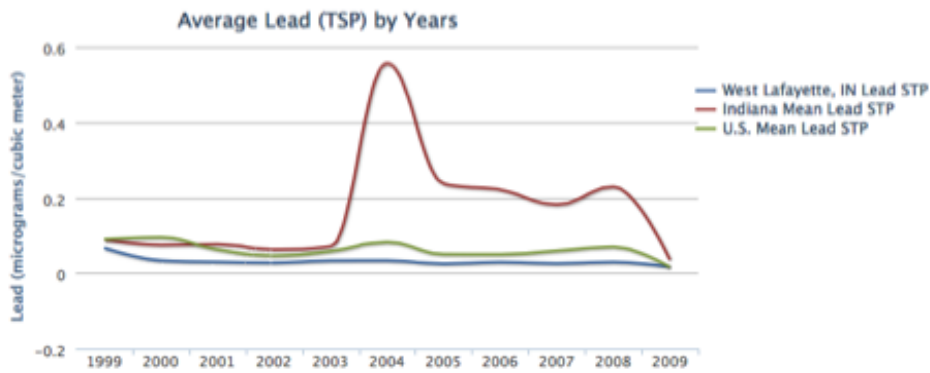
Air Quality (Heather)

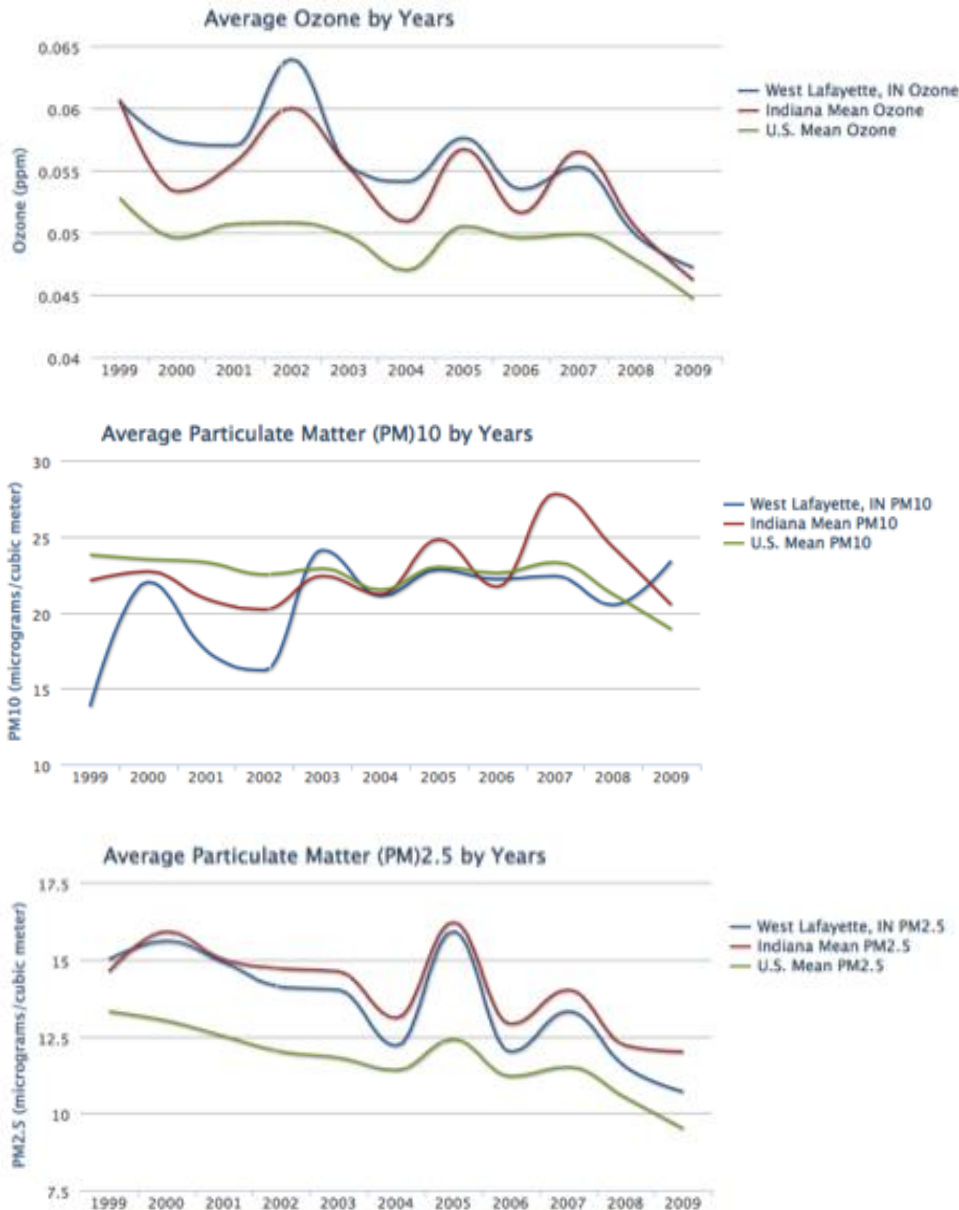
11. EPA air quality index (Earth and Atmospheric Science dept, Purdue)

- West Lafayette, IN has an overall air quality score of 7.4/10, where 0 corresponds to “breathable” and 10 corresponds to “outstanding”. This overall score is comprised of the following scores for various pollutants: (i) 9.1 for carbon monoxide; (ii) 7.6 for ozone; (iii) 8.6 for PM 10 (particulate matter less than 10 μm in diameter); (iv) 3.8 for PM 2.5 (particulate matter less than 2.5 μm in diameter); (v) 5.4 for sulfur dioxide; and (vi) 6.2 for nitrogen dioxide. (Source: <http://www.homefacts.com/airquality/Indiana/Tippecanoe-County/West-Lafayette.html>)
- The Environmental Protection Agency uses an Air Quality Index (AQI) to characterize the air quality at locations across the country. The AQI ranges from 0 to 500, with 0-50 as “good” air quality and 301-500 as “hazardous”. The graphs below show the trends in air quality for West Lafayette, IN from 1999 - 2009. (Source: <http://www.usa.com/west-lafayette-in-air-quality.htm>). In general, air quality in West Lafayette is similar to Indiana’s air quality but is worse than the nation’s average air quality. The overall trend since 2002 has been towards improved air quality. Air quality parameters typically associated with emissions from fixed (e.g., factories) and mobile (e.g., cars) sources are nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide. Sulfur dioxide levels have been above the national average since 2003.

While sulfur dioxide levels do not appear to have a strong trend, nitrogen dioxide levels generally decreased until 2004 and then showed an overall increase until 2008. The levels remained approximately the same, but above the national average from 2008-2009. PM 2.5 levels have been higher than the national average since 2009 but generally slightly lower than the state average. Additionally, other than a peak in 2005, fine particulate levels (PM 2.5) have shown a gradual decrease over the past decade. PM 2.5 levels are important because they are believed to pose the largest health risks (http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/pm/pm25_index.html). The sources of fine particulate matter are dominantly activities related to combustion (i.e., motor vehicles, power plants, etc.).







12. Asthma and allergy rates (Tipp County health Dept?)

- Tippecanoe County is ranked 10th in the state for the number of asthma-related visits to the emergency room (<http://www.unityhc.com/news/view/lafayette-allergy-asthma-clinic-and-the-tobacco-free-partnership-celebrate-world-asthma-day-119>). The number of asthma-related visits to the emergency room in Tippecanoe County is 46.8 per 10,000 residents, as compared to 49.7 for the state (http://www.in.gov/isdh/tpc/files/local_policy_brief_tippecanoe.pdf). Asthma cases can be related to smoking, and 24% of residents in Tippecanoe County are smokers (<http://county-health.findthedata.org/l/774/Tippecanoe>).

13. Clean fleet rates- WL- owned vehicles, (Clerk's office?) and City Bus

- CityBus has 73 buses in its fleet, including 20 buses that are diesel-electric hybrid buses. CityBus also offsets some of its electricity by using three wind turbines. Since July 2011, these turbines have generated 187,665 kWh of energy (as of August 4, 2012). This energy generation has prevented 146.5 tons of CO₂ emissions.

Waste (Tom)

14. Recycling rates- WL residential (Streets/ sanitation)
15. Recycling amounts from drop off site – oil, glass, etc (Streets/ Sanitation)
16. Yard waste pickup rates (Streets/ Sani)
17. Short term events held within the city (e-waste, goodwill, metal pickups, shredding, compost programs, school lunch program)
18. Other nonfood diversion (?)

Transit (Allen)

19. Ridership #s (City Bus, city routes)
20. Miles of trails (Parks and Rec)
- 21 Miles of bike lanes (John Thomas- what metrics will the APC use?)
22. # of bike racks (Development Dept)
23. Walk score – ratio of total sidewalks to roads? (Safe routes to school master plan? Dave Buck)

Smart Development (Diane)

24. Population Density (APC)
25. % of parks, athletic fields, open space, recreational facilities

Food and Agriculture (Lindsey / Aparna)

25. \$ sales at Farmers' market or number of bags given away (Bev Shaw)
 - \$300,000 sales a season
 - 500 bags given away each year
26. # of, area covered by community gardens

Public and Staff education (Diane)

29. How does the public/ staff get information? EXAMPLES?

City Policies and Planning (Diane)

30. Long term planning (storm water and trash plan)
31. West Lafayette- Clear-Blue-Green certified? Other designations?
32. Purchasing policies
33. Other environmental policies (no idling?)
 - We don't have anything official in that regard but I'd like to write up a bit on what other cities do when we move on to recommendations (if we include them at another time.)

all departments would say, if asked directly, that they comply with any state and fed regulations.

Energy Consumption (Dan)

34. City services and community?

Appendix A: Potential GG Volunteers

- Marcus Neiman, marcus_86219@hotmail.com
- Tyler Dull, tdull@purdue.edu
- Kent Freeman, freemak@purdue.edu
- Fushcia-Ann Hoover, fhoover@purdue.edu
- Kirk Yoder Purdue ESC - Environmental Science Club, purdueesc@gmail.com
- Anne Caroline Michel - Caribbean Association at Purdue University, (309) 7062821, annecaro92@yahoo.fr
- Wendy Reed, Process Engineer, wreed@CookBiotech.com, Cook Biotech Incorporated, 765.497.3355 ext. 4997, 765.807.1997 (direct)
- Aimei, achua@purdue.edu
- Andrea Reifus - Senior obtaining BS in Environmental Science - Public Policy & Economic Analysis, areifeis@gmail.com
- ICAN Youth Foundation - "ACT" - requesting contacts, projects or opportunities for women and youth members to work on Environmental Activism/Volunteering
- Silai C Mirzoy - senior at Purdue, smirzoy@purdue.edu
- Bill Arthur, wilarth306@gmail.com
- Sara Peel, CLM, Director, Watershed Projects, Wabash River Enhancement Corporation, 200 N. 2nd Street, Lafayette, Indiana 47906, phone: (765) 337-9100, email: speel@lafayette.in.gov